(b) Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Kindly amend claim 1as follows. A detailed listing of all the claims that are or were in the application is provided.

1. (Currently Amended) A toner comprising: toner particles containing at least a colorant, a release agent, ~~and~~ a polar resin, and an inorganic fine powder,

wherein[[;]] said polar resin contains (a) at least 3% by weight of said polar resin of a polyester resin unit obtained by carrying out polymerization in the presence of [[a]] from 0.01% by weight to 2% by weight titanium chelate compound as a catalyst, and (b) has an acid value of from 3 mg×KOH/g to 35 mg×KOH/g;

said toner particles are obtained by carrying out granulation in an aqueous medium; [[and]]

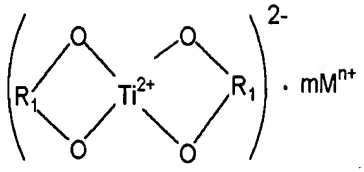
said toner has a weight average particle diameter of from 4 μm to 10 μm[[.]]; and

wherein in said titanium chelate compound, its chelating compound is a diol, a dicarboxylic acid or an oxycarboxylic acid.

2. (Cancelled)

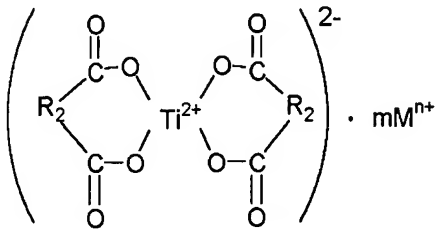
3. (Original) The toner according to claim 1, wherein said titanium chelate compound is a compound represented by any of the following Formulas (I) to (VIII), or a hydrate thereof:

Formula (I)



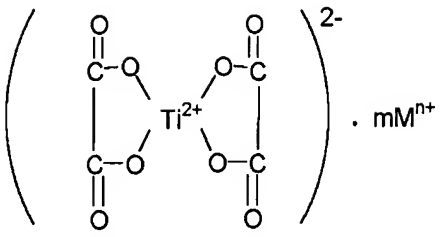
wherein R_1's each represent an alkylene group or alkenylene group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, which may have a substituent; and M represents a counter cation, m represents the number of the cation and n represents a valence number of the cation, where n is 2 when m is 1 and n is 1 when m is 2; when n is 1, M ~~representing~~ represents a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion or an organoammonium ion, and when n is 2, an alkaline earth metal ion;

Formula (II)



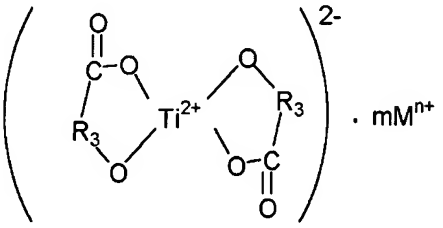
wherein R_2's each represent an alkylene group or alkenylene group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which may have a substituent; and M represents a counter cation, m represents the number of the cation and n represents a valence number of the cation, where n is 2 when m is 1 and n is 1 when m is 2; when n is 1, M ~~representing~~ represents a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion or an organoammonium ion, and when n is 2, an alkaline earth metal ion;

Formula (III)



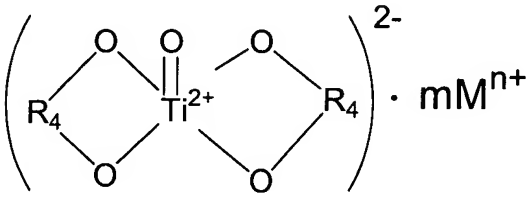
wherein M represents a counter cation, m represents the number of the cation and n represents a valence number of the cation, where n is 2 when m is 1 and n is 1 when m is 2; when n is 1, M ~~representing~~ represents a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion or an organoammonium ion, and when n is 2, an alkaline earth metal ion;

Formula (IV)



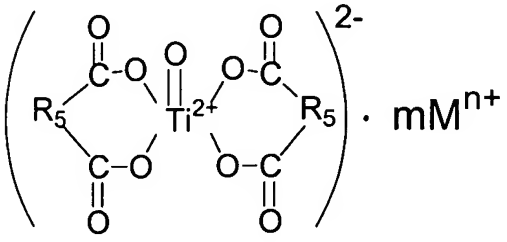
wherein R_3's each represent an alkylene group or alkenylene group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which may have a substituent; and M represents a counter cation, m represents the number of the cation and n represents a valence number of the cation, where n is 2 when m is 1 and n is 1 when m is 2; when n is 1, M ~~representing~~ represents a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion or an organoammonium ion, and when n is 2, an alkaline earth metal ion;

Formula (V)



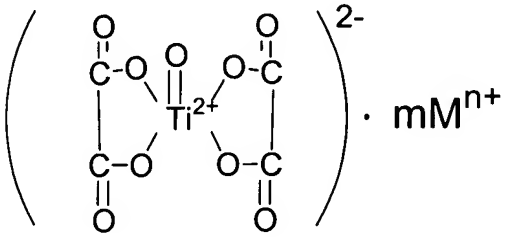
wherein R_4's each represent an alkylene group or alkenylene group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, which may have a substituent; and M represents a counter cation, m represents the number of the cation and n represents a valence number of the cation, where n is 2 when m is 1 and n is 1 when m is 2, and, when n is 1, M represents a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion or an organoammonium ion, and when n is 2, an alkaline earth metal ion;

Formula (VI)



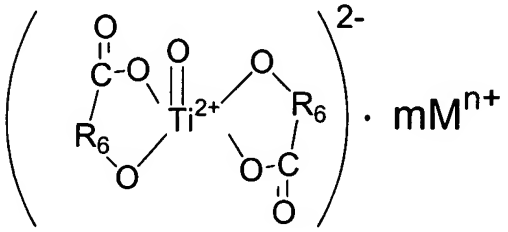
wherein R_5's each represent an alkylene group or alkenylene group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which may have a substituent; and M represents a counter cation, m represents the number of the cation and n represents a valence number of the cation, where n is 2 when m is 1 and n is 1 when m is 2, and, when n is 1, M represents a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion or an organoammonium ion, and when n is 2, an alkaline earth metal ion;

Formula (VII)



wherein M represents a counter cation, m represents the number of the cation and n represents a valence number of the cation, where n is 2 when m is 1 and n is 1 when m is 2, and, when n is 1, M represents a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion or an organoammonium ion, and when n is 2, an alkaline earth metal ion; and

Formula (VIII)



wherein R_6's each represent an alkylene group or alkenylene group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which may have a substituent; and M represents a counter cation, m represents the number of the cation and n represents a valence number of the cation, where n is 2 when m is 1 and n is 1 when m is 2, and, when n is 1, M represents a hydrogen ion, an alkali metal ion, an ammonium ion or an organoammonium ion, and when n is 2, an alkaline earth metal ion.

4. (Original) The toner according to claim 3, wherein said titanium chelate compound is a compound represented by any of the above Formulas (II), (III), (VI) and (VII), or a hydrate thereof.

5. (Original) The toner according to claim 1, wherein in a water/methanol wettability test of said toner particles and said toner, a methanol per cent

by weight of each of them at the time a transmittance becomes 50% of an initial value satisfies the following expressions:

$10 \leq TA \leq 70$;

$30 \leq TB \leq 90$; and

$0 \leq TB - TA \leq 60$

where TA is the methanol per cent by weight of the toner particles, and TB is the methanol per cent by weight of the toner.

6. (Original) The toner according to claim 1, wherein in an endothermic curve of said toner measured by differential thermal analysis, a peak temperature of a maximum endothermic peak in a range from 30°C to 200°C is in a range from 50°C to 120°C.

7. (Original) The toner according to claim 1, which contains a salicylic acid metal compound as a charge control agent.

8. (Original) The toner according to claim 7, wherein a metal of said salicylic acid metal compound used as a charge control agent is aluminum or zirconium.

9. (Original) The toner according to claim 1, wherein said polar resin has a hydroxyl value of 5 to 40 mg×KOH/g.

10. (Original) The toner according to claim 1, wherein said toner particles are particles produced by dispersing in an aqueous medium a polymerizable monomer composition which contains at least a polymerizable monomer, the colorant, the polar resin, the release agent, a charge control agent and a polymerization initiator, granulating the polymerizable monomer composition, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomer.